State of New Hampshire

Department of Health and Human Services

MINUTES
Rate Structure Work Group Meeting
Friday December 9, 2022 / 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Held via: Zoom Webinar

Attendance: Laurie Vachon, BDS Facilitator; Jen Doig, BDS Facilitator; Christy Roy, BDS Facilitator; Abby Conger, BDS; Drew Smith, A&M; Krista Stephani, MSLC; Lesley Beerends, MSLC; Jacquelyn George, MSLC; Kim Shottes, ED Plus Company; Martin McNamara, Optumas; Will Walker, Family Member; Ellen McCahon, ED CSNI; Matthew Cordaro, ED One Sky Services; Shelley Kelleher, CFO Lakes Region Community Services; Sudip Adhikari, Gateways; Kara Nickulas, CMCC; Alecia Ortiz, A&M; Stacey Rosenzweig, A&M; Susan Silsby, Easter Seals

Please reference the corresponding slide presentation for the detailed agenda, including topics and themes covered in the meeting and corresponding takeaways and applicable action items.

Topic	Key Takeaways & Action Items

Review the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)	• An overview of the SIS person-centered planning tool was provided, to attendees of the Rate Work Group.
	
	   ○ The SIS is a tool to help identify the supports someone may need to achieve their goals.
	
	   ○ The SIS evaluates and measures activities of daily living, and instrumental activities of daily living. The SIS also has some medical and behavioral health questions that are used in person-centered planning.
	
	• As part of the rate setting process, the Department gathered a sample of SIS assessments. This sample will play a part in the new reimbursement rates for certain services.
	
	   ○ In pulling the sample, the Department only contacted individuals who were due for a SIS assessment.
	
	   ○ The sample was representative of the different needs of individuals across New Hampshire.
	
	• The data from the SIS samples may inform service levels, but **no decisions have been made at this time.**
	
	• If service levels are developed, not all services will have a level. Services like environmental modifications or assistive technology devices will not have a service level.

Review SIS Data	- The following summarizes general data presented during the Work Group Meeting: - Number of individuals who had an upcoming SIS assessment: 1,157 - Number of individuals in sample: 400 - Statistically valid?: Yes - Start and End Dates of Data Collection: June 2022-November 2022 - The following summarizes the number of SIS assessments included in the sample, by Area Agency (AA) region: - AA 1: 36 - AA 2: 27 - AA 3: 31 - AA 4: 53 - AA 5: 36 - AA 6: 57 - AA 7: 59 - AA 8: 34 - AA 9: 34 - AA 10: 33 - The Supports Needs index is an overall summary score of the SIS. A score of 100 indicates an average support need. This is normalized to a nationwide sample. New Hampshire's score of 95.7 aligns closely with the nationwide sample. - The score distributions are typical of what is normally seen in a representative data sample. - The data gives us a measure of service needs, and is an independent way of looking at service intensity.
Update on Cost Reports	- Based on previous feedback, the deadline for an AA or provider vendor to submit a cost report for waiver services was extended from November 1, 2022 to December 7, 2022. - Myers and Stauffer received an additonal 8 cost report, as of December 7, 2022. - In total, Myers and Stauffer is in receipt of 37 cost reports. - All AAs submitted cost reports for services.
General Questions	- Question: Is the number of SIS assessments included in the sample enough for CMS to ensure there are no biases in the data? - Optumas Response: We are unaware of if CMS dictates a specific sample number, but as we prepared to create our sample, we wanted to make sure the data would be representative and would not result in biases. The 400 included in the sample was enough to ensure data is representative and unbiased. - Question: How does the bell curve discussed during today's meeting compare to other SIS data? Did you see a similar distribution across summary scores?

- ○ Optumas Response: The data smooths out a little bit, but it looks fairly similar to what was presented today.
- Question: You'll probably be asked if there is a bias in the people not included in the sample.
  - ○ Optumas Response: The bell curves are relatively similar.
- Question: You said you have 37 cost reports and that you "hope" to have enough data. What is the potential impact to the rate we come up with?
  - ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: As always, more data is better as long as it can be validated and used in an informative way. One of the subjects we are talking about in January is how cost reports inform rate development. Once we determine what data is appropriate to use for direct care wages and other components, we can use this in conjunction with the SIS to develop a base rate and potentially some intensity levels. In addition, keep in mind cost report information will vary by service, and we will note the number of cost reports used to develop a draft rate for a specific waiver service.
    - The Member noted that they still had some concerns, but looks forward to future discussions.
    - A BDS representative also noted asking if the sample of cost reports received by Myers and Stauffer was statistically valid during the November Work Group meeting. At the time of the November Rate Work Group meeting, the number of cost reports received was statistically valid, so the additional reports only enhances the statistical validity.
- Question: One issue that has been circulating is the development of a case management rate, and that some case management costs may have been reported in different services like DAADS or FMS. There are some very significant material conversations that need to be had that will impact the rate, specifically as it relates to functions and activities under a service. I want to make sure there will be appropriate time allotted for these discussions. Understanding how this conversation will be revisited is important. Have any of these conversations taken place?
  - ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: From a cost stand point, we will know the average hours and administrative components. Hours used in the development of a rate will be important, as will the billing unit. There is more conversation that will take place, and these types of topics will be discussed for every service.
- Question: What is the percentage of total vendors we have and have we completely closed down receipt of cost reports?
  - ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: From the list of known service providers, we have received cost reports from approximately 53% of total vendors. We are currently validating reports, and if we were to receive a report after today, we cannot guarantee being able to validate it for inclusion in rate calculations.

	• Question: I am curious about the process for the DSP wage and what the methodology is and how we calculate the wage using cost report and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data?
	   ○ Myers and Stauffer response: One of the things we are going to do is validate the data. We will use DSP wages as reported in the cost reports to compare against what is available in BLS. We will also look at education and experience levels. As you know, BLS doesn't have a perfect job category for DSP positions, and it is likely we will have to look at combining categories. We are aware there is a sub-group that has talked about credentialing and we will discuss if there needs to be a modifier applied to the rate for such a purpose.
	• Question: Will there be discussion on draft rates?
	   ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: We anticipate discussing each service and its components so you understand what we are proposing to include.
	• Question: What about family living providers? How is this being handled?
	   ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: We will look at the data similarly to other services, knowing family living providers are different from other services. We will look at their payment to determine how payments are made and how the Department wants to move forward. The components will likely be the same as other services.
	• Question: What happens if we are paying more today than what a future rate will be? Will providers be grandfathered in?
	   ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: This is really a question for the Department. The intent is not to disrupt services, but we will need to discuss anything like this with the Department.
	• Question: There is a significant desire from families and individuals to participate in discussions regarding DSP wages. This was raised as a point of concern at the Advisory Committee. We need to demonstrate that we have listed and considered their feedback. As such, I am asking for an update on what is to be covered in each Rate Work Group ahead of time, so people are made aware of topics.
	   ○ Myers and Stauffer Response: Thank you for this feedback. We have added a family member to the Rate Work Group which will help bring some of this perspective to the table. In addition, we will discuss the request to have information made available ahead of time with the Department.

Next Steps	<u>SIS</u> • Department will continue to evaluate the collected SIS data. • Once a full analysis of the SIS data is complete, Myers and Stauffer, Optumas, and the Department will share additional information with the Rate Work Group.

	○ This includes discussion with the Rate Work Group on how Members see the SIS data potentially being used in the future development of services rates.
	
	<u>Service Rates</u>
	
	• Myers and Stauffer continues to review cost report information, and anticipates discussing preliminary service rate methodologies in early 2023.
	• Upcoming Rate Work Group topics include:
	  ○ How cost report information is used for rates (tentatively scheduled for January 2023).
	  ○ Discussion of direct support professional qualifications (tentatively scheduled for February 2023).
	  ○ Begin discussion of service specific rates (tentatively scheduled for March 2023).